

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 6 | Number 8 (1905)

pps. 628-630

The Iowa Mounds

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"The Iowa Mounds." *The Annals of Iowa* 6 (1905), 628-630.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3105>

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changes with 300 Iowa journals, which are placed in substantial bindings at regular intervals, the volumes now numbering over 3,000. It is heartily appreciated in the libraries of our cities, colleges and schools, as well as by an increasing number of intelligent people. There is a constant demand for copies of the work for permanent preservation. I have simply aimed to present in comely, old-fashioned style, in plain printing, with no attempt at ornamentation, as much of the materials of Iowa history as I have been able to obtain. Beyond this main purpose, and the general influence which such a periodical ought legitimately to wield, I have had no ambition. The volumes have gone to the public upon their own merits. Their kindly reception by the intelligent people of Iowa is the amplest reward that one could covet. If health and life are spared me, I hope to add other volumes to this series.

CHARLES ALDRICH,
Editor of THE ANNALS OF IOWA.

THE IOWA MOUNDS.

First and last there has been, if not exploration, at least a great deal of digging into the Iowa mounds and ancient Indian graves. Aside from the work of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, and of a very few individual explorers here and there, these disturbances of the soil had better never have been made. Such work should be performed comprehensively, under intelligent, systematic direction, and its results carefully saved for our schools and museums. There should be a prohibition upon that sort of exploration which would carry away to other States, or to private collections, such discoveries as may chance to be made. Our Iowa museums and schools have need of all the materials that can be procured from these sources. It is a matter of profound regret that some of the most precious finds thus far made in this State have been taken beyond its borders for the benefit of other communities. But there has not only been no means of preventing such results, but explorations are expensive, and those who could perform the work in a proper manner have not been supplied with the requisite funds.

A new impetus has been given to thought on this subject by the opening of a mound on the bank of the West Okoboji Lake last October. The first explorers unearthed six skeletons, two or three iron tomahawks, a little bell, and some copper ornaments, beads and stone implements. These discoveries were fully reported in the papers and created a wide interest at the time. At this stage of affairs the Iowa Anthropological Society took up the subject and sent Dr. Duren J. H. Ward of Iowa City to Okoboji to explore the mound. His men plied their spades nearly a week, removing in the meantime a mass of clay six feet deep and thirty feet square. Below the first finds there were many human bones, which would seem to have been gathered together for burial at this spot. Dr. Ward gave to the public an interesting account of the excavation and what he found in the mound.

About the same time several old and long abandoned Indian graves were discovered in the southeast part of the city of Des Moines. These graves were in a bed of sand which was being hauled away for the use of iron moulders. Among the finds were several much decayed skeletons, a number of small bells, copper bracelets, a great variety of beads, an old-fashioned glass bottle, with traces of other objects. A few of the beads were made from marine shells which had been brought from long distances. These items have been carefully cleansed and will be preserved for more particular examination hereafter. Several of these old burial places exist in Polk county.

Many mounds and ancient graves have been explored with gratifying results in several of our river counties. So much has been done in this direction in Allamakee that at one time there was quite a traffic in aboriginal pottery, stone and bone implements. There were evidently large communities of mound builders in the valley of the Des Moines. While mounds in all parts of the State have been explored in a way, there must still be many which have never been

disturbed. The results thus far indicate that there are many facts concerning these mounds and old graves which are not yet understood, and that they promise to yield abundant material to the systematic explorer.

And then, if two or three interesting groups of mounds can be found which have never been disturbed they should be preserved intact to coming times. For the most part these groups are located on timbered bluffs where the acres are not valuable, but properly cared for they will never cease to be objects of deep interest. These purposes might well be carried out under the general direction of the Anthropological Society of the State, aided by the State, and once on foot, no one would begrudge the small expense.

THE EARLY HOME OF JAMES W. GRIMES.

The frontispiece of this number of *THE ANNALS* was engraved from a recent photograph of the birthplace of Governor and United States Senator James W. Grimes. It is said by those who have seen it to be a faithful picture of this typical New Hampshire farmer's home, where the illustrious Iowa Senator was born and where he spent his boyhood. We are indebted for this courtesy to Capt. Elbridge D. Hadley, of Des Moines, who passed his boyhood in that vicinity. In his "Life of James W. Grimes," the Rev. Dr. William Salter has the following paragraph referring to the Grimes family and their home:

He was the youngest of eight children, of whom one died in infancy; the others survived him, except a sister, Susan, who became the wife of Mr. Alden Walker, and died October 31, 1846. She was the mother of Captain John G. Walker, United States Navy. Being thirteen years older than her brother, she assisted very much in the care of his childhood. Through life he cherished a grateful recollection of her kindness, and regarded her children with peculiar tenderness and affection. His father, whom he resembled in temperament and appearance, was a substantial farmer, a man of unpretending goodness, warmly attached to his family, hospitable and kind to all, of thrifty habits, and highly esteemed among

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